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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMMIGRATION
WORKING COMMITTEE AT THE SECRETARIAT LEVEL

The F.A.O. Latin American Forestry and Forest Products Commission at its Third Session held in Santiago in December, adopted the following Resolution on Problems of Manpower and Immigration in Relation to Forestry and Forest Products Development.

PROBLEMS OF MANPOWER AND IMMIGRATION
IN RELATION TO FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT

1. During the meeting in which manpower and immigration problems were discussed, the Commission received assistance from Mr. H.M. Phillips, Member of the ECLA Secretariat who attended the Conference in his capacity of Chairman of the Economic Development and Immigration Working Committee, Mr. J. Mendez, the representative of the International Labour Office on that Committee, and Mr. Venturoli, Head of the Italian Mission of immigration in Chile.
2. The Commission stressed the importance that it attaches to the possibilities of forest development in conjunction with immigration.
3. The problem of fostering forestry and forest production in Latin America, being a problem of economic development, raises not only technical questions which directly concern FAO, but also economic, financial and manpower questions in which the help of ECLA of ILO, and that of the various international specialised agencies is important. The Commission has previously recognised the importance of these questions, and now considers that they should be thoroughly studied, in relation to specific and concrete projects capable of being carried out quickly, as a part of general programmes involving forestry policy affecting a whole country or large zone.
4. The Commission believes that movement of manpower into the areas concerned is, in the majority of cases, the only solution to the problem. It also believes that the concept of forest integrated industries advocated by the FAO constitutes, from the social as well as from the technical and economic points of view, whenever possible the most desirable approach. The nature and extent of the movement of manpower

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will vary in different cases. It may proceed from surrounding areas of the same country or from other countries thus constituting immigration; and its character will depend upon the physical climatic and social conditions prevailing and the nature of the manpower needs.

5. In the temperate and sub-tropical zone, the Commission believe that projects involving immigration from European countries which have surplus population and technicians available, can play an important and far reaching part in the development of forestry production of mutual benefit to both European and Latin American countries.

6. In the tropical and equatorial regions, the problems of obtaining manpower for forestry development is equally important and even more complex. What is needed is immigration to the forestry production areas of manpower adapted to the prevailing climatic conditions. In regions where settlement presents special difficulties, intensive mechanisation will be of particular importance in order to solve manpower shortages. Where immigration takes place the necessary preparations for the settlement of the migrants needs to be undertaken after careful study of prevailing conditions. European immigration would be likely to be limited in extent.

The Commission

DRAWN THE ATTENTION of Member Governments to the importance of immigration as a means of fostering forestry and forest products development.

RECOMMENDS to Member Governments to undertake as soon as possible general studies for this purpose within the framework of a forestry policy related to the whole economy of the country;

SUGGESTS that Member Governments avail themselves where necessary of the Technical Assistance Programme of the United Nations, requesting that missions be sent to assist them in their studies which should cover all aspects of the problem, especially the financial resources necessary for the carrying out of the projects;

SUGGESTS further that Member Governments initiate without delay studies of specific projects involving forestry and forest products development and immigration. That in cases where the implementation of these projects present difficulties of a technical, economic, financial or manpower character, which cannot be solved by the Governments themselves and which are within the competence of international organisations, Governments should seek the assistance of those organisations, especially of the FAO, the ECLA Secretariat Working Committee on Economic Development and Immigration, the ILO and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for their solution.

7. In order to facilitate the co-ordination of supply and demand for manpower and in particular technicians the Commission

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REQUESTS FAO, in co-operation with the Latin American Manpower Field Office of the ILO and with the Regional Offices of the IRO, to continue to collect information as to the demand for manpower in forestry and forest industries, classified according to specifications, and to distribute this among the interested national organisations.

RECOMMENDS Governments to establish specialised employment services or sections thereof to deal with the placing of forestry and wood technicians with the object of finding out the needs for specialists in the different branches of the forestry and wood industry and of satisfying them. Notes that the Latin American Manpower Field Office of the ILO may assist Governments in the establishment of these employment services.